	Season	Assessed Demand	Availability	Sales	Closing Stock
	Kharif 2005	33.45	36.81	25.17	11.63
	Rabi 2005-06	44.61	48.92*		
MOP	Kharif 2004	10.84	12.53	10.99	1.53
	Rabi 2004-05	12.37	13.33	12.11	1.22
	Kharif 2005	13.89	18.82	13.25	5.57
	Rabi 2005-06	14.99	25.49*		

*Estimated Availability

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Urea is the only fertilizer that is under partial distribution control and 50% of the urea produced in the country is allocated to States under Essential Commodities Act (ECA). In case of the major decontrolled fertilizer such as DAP, Government maintains Buffer Stock to meet any exigent situation. During the current financial year 2005-06, keeping in view of the lower production of DAP in the country due to tight availability of raw materials/intermediates in the international market, the Department enhanced the buffer stock to about 8 lakh MT of DAP during the current financial year.

The entire demand of MOP is met through imports, as there are no exploitable reserves of MOP in the country. Keeping in view the adequate imports of MOP during the year, no buffer stock of MOP is maintained.

Guidelines for classifying drugs

27. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995, does not make any distinction between life-saving drugs and other drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are no guidelines to classify that certain drugs are life-saving drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Pronab Sen Task Force set up to look into the various issues of life-saving drugs has submitted its Report; and

(e) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

(d) and (e) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Some of the salient recommendations of Task Force are, that Price Controls should be imposed on the 'essentiality' of the drug and not on the basis of turnover and it should be applied only to formulations and not to bulk drugs. Some of the other major recommendations of Task Force are to promote generic drugs, to encourage public health facilities, to revive the Public Sector Enterprises in the manufacture of drugs, to provide fiscal incentives in R&D activities in drugs, to provide financial support for implementation of Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, to enact Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT), to establish price negotiation process for new patented drugs, to streamline the bulk procurement regime, to exempt the excise duty, customs duty and other levies on cancer and anti HIV/AIDS drugs, to establish the State Illness Funds in the States/Union Territories for BPL families, to reduce the excise duty on drugs from 16 to 8%, to enhance the exemption limit of SSI units from Rs. 1 crores to Rs. 5 crores, to establish a Settlement Commission which is authorized to settle the disputed overcharged amount from the pharma companies.

Control of wheat prices

28. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the sharp rise in the prices of wheat in the retail markets during the recent past;